

labourers of anxiety and sorrow: Gold is bright as the morning, but fatal as the storm at midnight: beware of the silent approach of the serpent, beware of the beauty of woman, but chiefly beware of the power of gold. It is produced among poisons in the bowels of the earth, and its fruits are calamity and guilt. The caravan stopped, for every one revered the wisdom and virtue of Omar. I will tell you, said Omar, the adventures of Sadir, Haran, and Zimur.

Sadir, Haran, and Zimur, were friends; amiable and young, their feet had yet not deviated from the paths of virtue. They set out together on a journey, and as they were travelling along the plains of Indostan, it happened that they found a treasure. This was at once the test of virtue and of friendship. Every heart throbbed, and every breast was opened to mirth and pleasure. To divide it, would have been an outrage on the delicacy and confidence of their amity. Let the bounty of heaven, said they, be the common blessing of us all. Mutually to share without division, will at once gratify and increase our confidence and love. As they had now the means of enjoyment, they determined to enjoy: they travelled by shorter stages, and they procured every accommodation that wealth could buy. When they reached the next town, Zimur was deputed by Sadir, and Haran

to

to procure them provisions, an office that suited his taste, his knowledge, and his address. As soon as he was gone, Sadir and Haran directed their eyes upon the treasure, and were some time silent: at length they stole a glance at each other, each was conscious to have a wish, and thought he saw it reflected in the countenance of his friend. They entered into conversation, in which this wish was not disclosed by almost imperceptible degrees. We should now secure this gold and treasure, said Sadir, whom could Zimur blame for his own indiscretion; would it not make us more happy than three? Shall we not at least what he will lose, and can we do without the opportunity that we neglect to improve?

The wise only, said Haran, are aware of the way to prosperity: Zimur has no right to the treasure with us, and we shall only lose it by an unchangeable decree if we keep the secret to ourselves. It is true, replied Sadir; but should again find us, he may question our termination, and claim his part: therefore, Haran, must be prevented. They were silent, and cease from troubling. Still the wish that gold excited in the hearts of Sadir and Haran, and such was the strength of which it was to be accomplished. Zimur returned in the evening, weary with his journey and pleased with the anticipation of his moment and rest. But his associates felt

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